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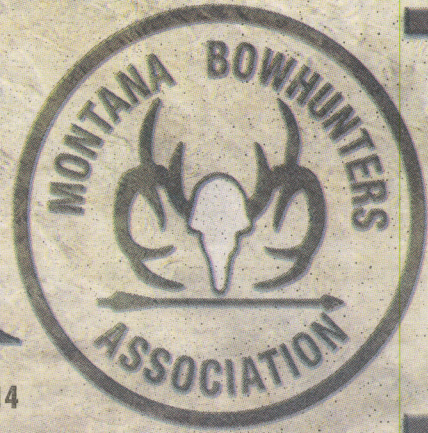
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Montana BOWHUNTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE MONTANA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

VOL. 42 #1 Fall 2014



PAGE 14 - Chris Blaskowski
Bowhunter of the Year 2014

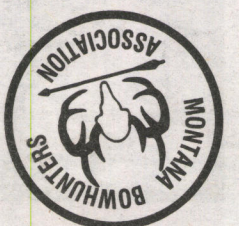
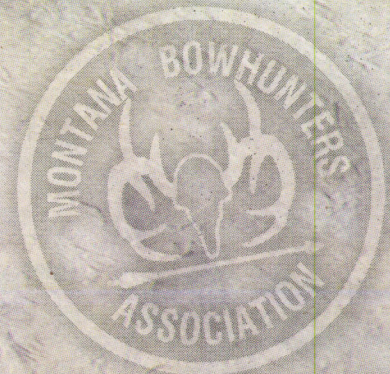
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THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE MONTANA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION:

"To unite the state's bowhunting sportsmen to
work towards a common goal of preserving and
promoting the sport of bowhunting in Montana."



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EDITORIAL COMMENTS

The MBA Magazine is a quarterly publication of the MBA and is intended to inform, entertain and educate its members on happenings within the organization and to bowhunting in general.

PUBLICATION DATES AND DEADLINES

FALL ISSUE, DEADLINE, July 15
WINTER ISSUE, DEADLINE, October 15
SPRING ISSUE, DEADLINE, January 15
SUMMER ISSUE, DEADLINE, April 15

Stories, photos, or cartoons should be sent to Al or Teri Kelly at PO Box 23611, Billings, MT 59104 or email teray1979@yahoo.com. All materials are the opinion of the author unless otherwise stated, and are subject to being edited. All photos will be placed in the MBA Photo Album and can be viewed at the annual conventions. Any questions as to policies of MBA please write the President.

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES

Please send new memberships or renewal memberships to MBA Treasurer, PO Box 23611, Billings, MT 59104 or call 406-697-7668, register online at www.mtba.org or ask a member.

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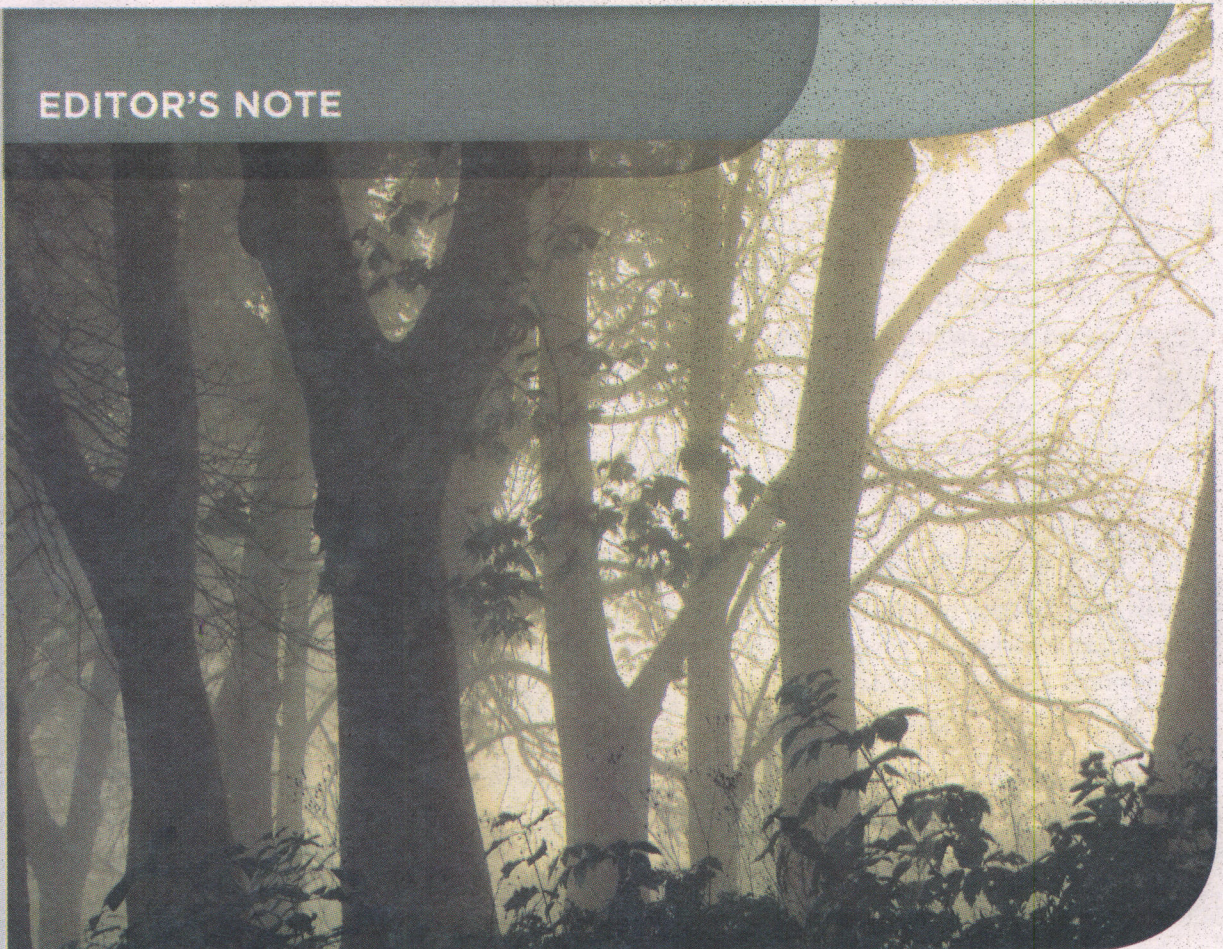
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EDITOR'S NOTE



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Here it is...issue #2 of our new format. We've gotten good feedback from our members on the changes. With the new format we have a little more room to use for content and we will strive to continue to provide a quality newsletter that is both informative and enjoyable to read. We're adding a few new items such as the Member Profile which will be a great way to get to know some of our members. If you have suggestions, ideas or things you'd like to see in the newsletter please send them in. With the extra space we need your member photos and stories. If you've got a great story, please share it and if you aren't into writing as much as I am then please feel free to contact me and I'll do the writing for you.

The other big item we have coming up is a survey. We tend to disregard surveys, we put them aside and forget about them with the thought in mind that my opinion isn't that big of a deal and plenty of other people will fill theirs out. It's a fine way to think as long as you don't mind if other people are making the decisions for you. In the MBA a survey is an important tool that is used to see what our members want. The people who answer the survey will help decide what stance the MBA will take on this important issue. Now, one of the things I jokingly tell my husband Al is that if everyone would just listen to me and do what I want them too, the world would be a much more peaceful and organized place. I know what my opinion is on this issue, so I'll be filling my survey out and sending it back in which is what I'm hoping the rest of you will also choose to do so that myself and the others who do fill theirs out don't have to make the choice for you.

So enough serious stuff. By the time you get this issue you should be well into planning the opening weekend hunts. I know I'm excited to get out in the woods as fall tends to be my favorite time of year. Have a great archery season and don't forget to take pictures of your successful hunts!

Teri Kelly
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About the Cover

Bowhunter of the Year
2014 — Chris Blaskowski

Recap on MBA Activities

President's Message

It's always hard to believe we're halfway through the summer when we reach our fall newsletter deadline. It seems it's easy to stay in denial about how quickly the summer goes until this point... On the other hand, it's one step closer to fall and our glorious opportunities.

We've been very busy over the past few months hosting the carp shoot and various other activities. Thanks to all those who have helped usher in our newest bowhunters, whether it's been at a shoot, during bowhunter education, or during the membership drive.

Here's a recap of some activities we've spent our time and money on to promote bowhunting:

- Sponsored youth shoots at the Montana Public Land Users and Sportsmen event in Missoula to combat I-169 (anti-trapping initiative), the Youth Conservation Expo at the Teller Wildlife Refuge, the upcoming Jack Creek Preserve Youth Camp (July and August), and upcoming Elk Fever event in Billings (August 9)
- Sponsored \$1000 in youth camp scholarships and bow giveaway during the Teller event
- Hosted the 12th Annual Carp Safari
- Contributed thousands of volunteer hours towards Bowhunter Education
- Conducted a membership drive, including hosting booths at Big Bear Stores in Great Falls and Billings
- Monitored Tentatives issues and submitted comments regarding wolf management
- Co-engineered a one-arm bow setup with Hickory Creek to accommodate disabled archers under the Permit To Modify Archery Equipment. We owe our thanks to Marlon Clapham, our machinist-in-residence, for his work to ensure the riser-mounted trigger mechanism works smoothly and safely.

Survey

As many of you know, the Pope and Young Club revised its by-laws this spring to exclude lighted nocks and bow mounted cameras from its "no electronics" rule. We plan to send out a survey soon on this topic to gauge member perception.

Membership Drive Deadline September 1

There's still time to get new members signed up and be eligible to win a traditional or compound bow package, donated by Cookie Koch. The individual who signs up the most new members wins a Helle knife and credit for merchandise in the MBA store. Remember, you must submit your list of new members to Jenn Schneider to get credit for the new sign-ups.

Region 5 Resignation

Michael Ros recently notified me that he must resign due to personal issues. We wish him well in his future bowhunting endeavors.

Joelle Selk



Joelle Selk

First Vice President's Report

I've been asked to speak on the MBEF. So I'll begin by backing up a few years. When I had the idea of a specialty license plate for the MBA, we went through a lot of trouble only to find out that the necessary requirements to sponsor a plate makes a group such as the Montana Bowhunters Assoc., which fights for Bowhunters rights, ineligible. The idea was just too good to let fade away so sometime I guess it takes a diehard like me to get back up, dust myself off and find another way to form an organization that can help the MBA and all the other archery and bowhunting educational groups in the state of Montana. I decided then that we needed some professional help so I grabbed my good friend, the Powder River county attorney, Jeff Noble, and immediately made him Vice-President, and of course every good guy or guys in this case, needs a great woman to help them out so my hunting partner Diann became the secretary and treasurer of the forming of MBEF.

Let me tell you it's a great feeling when people believe in what you're doing. Jeff's legal background helped to instruct us in the do's and don'ts about the application process to the IRS and after an eight month incubation period, we received approval from the IRS, and the Montana Bowhunter Education Foundation (MBEF) Ltd. was official. I collaborated with local artist Allen Jimmerson on the design of the first Montana Bowhunter license plate. With payments every month on the over \$4,000.00 loan to fund the manufacture of the plate, we were in great need of some kind of donation. With the overwhelming majority of the board of the MBA, and the support of then president Jason Tounsley, we received a \$1,500.00 donation which was greatly appreciated.

To date the MBEF has donated over \$1,200.00 in bag targets to bow-ed instructors; 31 MBA youth memberships, and over \$1,800.00 in donations to other archery educational organizations in our state. The donations are great, but the true goal for this organization is to create a facility for a museum and education center for archery and bowhunting in the state of Montana.

At the time of this writing we are only days out from purchasing almost 45 acres in the Flathead Valley in which to build this facility for bow-ed classes with plenty of room for blood trailing, to host 3D shoots, and create an archery only area.

Check out our website at www.mtbowhuntermuseum.org and don't forget to get your BOWHUNTER

Paul Martin



Paul Martin